

Statement by the Honorable John B. Anderson
Before the Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection, and
Cybersecurity
Wednesday, June 29, 2005

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Thompson and members of the Subcommittee, I am pleased the Committee has undertaken this review of the Transportation Security Agency's establishment of a no-fly list in its regulation of air transportation.

Earlier this year, I accepted the invitation of the Former Members of Congress Association, a group of which I am a member, to travel to the Federal Republic of Germany under a program which they were conducting with the aid of the German American Marshall Fund and coordinated with the assistance also of the Council on Excellence in Government.

Our itinerary embraced cities like Frankfurt Am Rhein, Cologne, Bonn, Frankfurt Am Oder and Berlin. It involved visits to German Universities and contacts with both their students and faculty.

Some days before our departure on April 23, 2005, the group arranging my ticketing notified me and travel arrangements that I was on a no-fly list and Delta Airlines would not issue the ticket prior to the departure date until my status was clarified.

As a registered voter for some years now in Florida, I contacted Congressman Clay Shaw's office, went to his office on Capitol Hill and with the help of his staff, submitted four items of identification including, voters card, drivers license, passport, former Members of Congress identification card and some days later received a communication from the Office of the Ombudsman saying that following the receipt of my Passenger Identity Verification (PIV) Form and their subsequent investigation "the TSA has verified your identity.

Accordingly, we have provided sufficient personal information to the airlines to distinguish you from other individuals and assist them in issuing your boarding pass more efficiently."

The following paragraph said that notwithstanding this you should have certain documents, one or more, to "help expedite receipt of a boarding pass" and that the airline "might require a brief period of time to verify your information but the process should not result in extensive delay."

My concern today is for less fortunate travelers without a Congressman and his staff to get through quickly to the right person at TSA. If the flight booking was in response to a family emergency or for some other reason where delay would be serious, how well can that hypothetical traveler cope? If the person with a common surname

arrives at the airport ticket counter without the availability of the expeditious advance work of someone like my friend Congressman Shaw, how well would they fare?

Should TSA have procedures in place that anticipate the difficulty I have only cursorily outlined. Why should not persons identified by TSA as being “of interest, and possible connections with terrorist activities be forewarned? Has TSA kept this committee and others who have a valid interest properly informed as to the standards they employ in describing someone as a person of interest to law enforcement authorities, and therefore a candidate for the “no-fly list”?

Mr. Chairman, I again appreciate this opportunity to provide written testimony.

John B. Anderson
Former Member of Congress